

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

ARIZONA EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT & HEALTH BOARD

NORTH PHOENIX REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL

1. Call To Order: The regular meeting of the First Things First North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council; Arizona Early Childhood Development and Health Board was held on Tuesday, December 8, 2009 at the Washington Elementary School Governing Board Room; 4650 West Sweetwater, Glendale, Arizona 85304.

Members Present: Bill Adams, Chair, Sally Downing, Vice Chair, Connie Robinson, Member, Elaine Ellis, Member, Jenna Goad, Member, Mindy Zapata, Member, Willette Watts, Member

Members Absent: James Emch, Member; Karyn Parker, Member; Gina Montes, Member.

- 2. Call to the Public: Erica Mendoza from Parenting Arizona thanked the Council for their continued support. Parenting Arizona is currently serving 25 families and partnering with Women Infants and Children throughout Maricopa. She wanted to remind Council Members that during the intake process, her staff very clearly identify that the program is funded/supported by First Things First.
- 3. Consent Agenda: Vice Chair Sally Downing moved to table the regular meeting minutes of November 10, 2009, second by Member Elaine Ellis, all in favor, no discussion; motion carried.

4. Call To Presenters

- A. Mary Jamsa, Reach Out and Read Coordinator from Southwest Human Development presented to the Council and gave the following statistics: 2,472 children served annually, 4,945 books are getting distributed annually. The clinic sites participating in this program in North Phoenix include: John C. Lincoln, MIHS Sunnyslope Family Health Center (Quality Improvement), CIGNA Paradise Valley/Phoenix, Kids Connection, Phoenix Pediatrics Desert Ridge, and CIGNA Deer Valley. Ms. Jamsa also brought with her Dr. Sue Johnson, Pediatrician from the Cigna Clinic who talked about her experience as a Provider utilizing the Reach Out and Read program.
- B. Marlene Moreno, Raising A Reader Training Specialist, Southwest Human Development presented to the Council the importance of reading to children at an early age. Raising a Reader is scheduled to launch in January 2010. Through the Parent Literacy workshops the following will be promoted: early literacy skills for children 0-5, family literacy, building healthy parent/child relationships and fostering a lifelong love of learning and books for the entire family. The target population for the new implementation will be various apartment buildings in the North Phoenix Region to include Pietra, Desert Arbor, Whispering Willows, Paradise Village, Windrose Village, Cascada I & II, Foothills Court, Park on Bell. Also included to be served are child care centers including Stone Creek Christian Learning Center, Creative Beginnings Learning Center, Premier Children's Center, John C. Lincoln Learning Center, and Raising Arizona.
- C. Carol Finch, Phoenix Public Library presented to the Council the different parts of her program which includes: Baby Time for children aged Birth to 23 months, Toddler Time for children aged 24 months to 36 months, Preschool story time ages 3 years through 5 years, and family story time for all ages. In addition, parent/caregiver workshops will be offered quarterly and each will last one to three hours. Ms. Finch advised that she will have more to report back to the Council once the program starts.

- D. John Cregg, Community Impact Coordinator, Valley of the Sun United Way presented to the Council their program's targeted approach which is school readiness and working with school age children age 3-5. Valley of the Sun United Way will offer brain development workshops for parents and caregivers at the Cholla Library. In addition, as part of this strategy there will be extra story time opportunities available at the library, and 5,000 School Readiness Kits will be distributed throughout the community that include books and other supplies to help promote family literacy. These kits will be distributed in January through June to the community surrounding the Miller Elementary School in the Washington Elementary School District as a primary focus, but will also be available to other agencies within the North Region.
- 5. Funding Plan Presentation Update: The North Phoenix 2011 funding plan was presented to the State Board for approval at their meeting held on December 8th. All strategies presented for approval were accepted with the exception of the Communication Strategy. Other Regions who presented funding plans for approval at this Board meeting also experienced the same delay in their Communication strategies. There are two strategies that were "self-held" as discussed by the Council at last month's meeting. These will be further developed and then presented to the State Board for approval in January or February.
- 6. Executive Director Update: The Council was informed that a new Executive Director for First Things First was selected at the Board Meeting held on December 8th. The successful candidate was Rhian Evans, who is slated to take the place of the current Executive Director, Elliot Hibbs.
- 7. Grantee Quarterly Data Report: Copies of the template for grantee quarterly reporting was provided to the Council in their packets along with forms used by Finance to monitor contracts. The Regional Coordinator reviewed how the information for these forms is collected and utilized. A complete report of grantee outcomes for the first quarter is anticipated to be available for review at the next Council meeting.
- 8. Crisis Prevention RFGA Update: One of the reviewers was unable to make the initial scheduled review so this has been re-scheduled for Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. Two applications were received in response to this RFGA. It is anticipated that a recommendation from the review committee will be available for the Council to consider at the January meeting.
- 9. Needs and Assets Report Update: At a previous council meeting, members of the North Phoenix Regional Partnership Council directed the Regional Coordinator to "make the choice" of an appropriate vendor to complete the report for the North Phoenix Region that also includes the previously identified additional data points. It is understood that all Maricopa/Phoenix regions are looking to pick a combined vendor. The Coordinator updated Council that once a list of vendors is provided, all Regional Coordinators and optional Council Members from the Maricopa/Phoenix Regions will meet together to select a vendor. It is anticipated that this meeting will occur in late December or January.
- 10. Next Scheduled Meeting: Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.
- 11. Adjournment: Member Connie Robinson moved to adjourn, second by Member Elaine Ellis, all in favor, no discussion, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Kriggotte & Hawles

Briggetta Hawks Administrative Assistant

Council Approval

Bill Adams,

Chair

Approved

Brenda J. Tomlin, MSW, ACSW

Regional Coordinator